

timely fashion and can bring a financial return equal to coca, the farmers could very easily return to illegal drug cultivation returning Bolivia to the status of a major coca producing nation as in the past.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker is that Bolivia has done a remarkable job in reversing the drug trade in that region and for that, they should be recognized and congratulated. But more than that, we should be rewarding their success with additional funds which they need and have requested in order to continue the successful effort and ensure that the gains are not reversed. It makes no sense to recognize Bolivia's successful efforts, thank them for all they are doing to help protect American citizens from drugs and then not continue to help them finish the job they set out to do. I hope that our Administration understands this and that if and when they send a request for additional counter narcotics assistance to the Congress they consider including some level of additional assistance for Bolivia.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for a job well done on the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act which contained \$1.2 billion for disaster assistance.

As you know, this summer's drought has placed a heavy burden on the agricultural industry in several parts of the country. Not only have crops been devastated, but the drought has also caused corresponding economic loss to livestock and dairy producers. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture has recently estimated the natural disaster losses for all affected states to total \$3.56 billion. The State of Ohio alone has suffered losses nearing \$600 million, almost 15 percent of Ohio's largest industry. In my district, Pickaway County's estimated crop value for this year's harvest is \$39 million below average. When this disaster is compounded with the existing low commodity prices, it puts our farmers in the most dire economic situation in recent memory.

Last week, I communicated with both the leadership and committee members to ensure that the final aid package would be augmented to provide adequate funding for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs such as the Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program, the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, the Livestock Assistance Program, and the Emergency Conservation Programs. Thankfully, the Republican Congress was able to pass an Agriculture Appropriations bill that included \$1.2 billion in much-needed disaster assistance for our farmers.

To close, Mr. Speaker, I would again like to commend this Congress and especially those

who have been instrumental in passing meaningful economic assistance to the farming community that serves as the foundation of this great Nation.

HONORING LINDA DOOLIN WARD,
CENTRAL EXCHANGE 1999 WOMAN
OF THE YEAR

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community. Today Linda Doolin Ward will be honored as the 1999 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange. Linda Doolin Ward has an extensive history with Kansas City and has shown outstanding leadership in her career and contributions to our metropolitan area. This prestigious award recognizes her commitment to gender concerns and her desire for equality in the workplace and society.

She is currently President of the Women's Foundation, a local organization dedicated to funding programs and services which assist women. I am especially impressed with her work at the Women's Foundation to establish grants to help meet the health care, employment, and educational needs of women. This year the Foundation will announce \$125,000 worth of grants addressing domestic violence, parenting, and professional development skills.

Serving on numerous boards, Mrs. Doolin Ward has demonstrated her significant presence as a catalyst for change. She was the first woman to be Board President and Chairperson of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City and served as the Executive Director of the Central Exchange. She is the Co-Chair of the FOCUS strategic planning project, was recently appointed to the Port Authority of Kansas City, and serves as a Committee Chairwoman for the Partnership for Children.

Linda Doolin Ward's career is just as impressive as her record of volunteerism. For 15 years she worked as an executive with Payless Cashways, Inc., and is now Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications with the American Italian Pasta Company. In addition to these achievements, she is married to her high school sweetheart, Terry Ward, and a devoted mother to her son, Jason. As a role model for women across the nation, Linda Doolin Ward has shown us how to balance family life with work and still make room to contribute to the people in our community.

I am honored to acknowledge Linda Doolin Ward for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and her commitment to making our community a better place. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 1999 Woman of the Year, Linda Doolin Ward.

LAND TRANSFER TO THE
GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, commercial growth along the southwest border increased at such a rate as to render current infrastructure resources obsolete in dealing with the volume of commercial traffic comfortably, economically and efficiently. Between 1990 and 1995, the border town of San Luis, Arizona witnessed a population increase of more than ninety percent, from 4,212 to 8,026. The combined population of San Luis and its sister city in San Luis, Sonora, Mexico is 350,000.

Since 1924, San Luis has served as a port of entry between the U.S. and Mexico. In 1998, the port experienced average daily crossings of 360 commercial vehicles, 7,500 private vehicles, and 5,865 pedestrian crossings. The average delay experienced by a commercial vehicle is nearly 2 hours. Delays for private vehicles can be of similar length depending on the time of day. Current port facilities are unable to expedite the current volume of traffic, and the increasing volume will only make a bad situation worse, unless efforts are made to reroute commercial traffic.

Today I am introducing legislation that authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer lands to the Greater Yuma Port Authority as a first in a series of steps toward building a new port of entry to clear commercial traffic through San Luis, Arizona.

This legislative measure has the support of the parties that make up the Grater Yuma Port Authority such as Yuma County, the cities of San Luis and Somerton, and the Cocopah Indian Tribe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PEDRO JOSÉ
GREER, JR.

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true humanitarian, an outstanding Cuban-American physician, a genuine hero, Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr., whose love for mankind, especially for the poor and homeless, is an admirable example for contemporary American society.

My uncle and aunt, Alfredo and Isabel Caballero, recently sent me a book authored by Dr. Greer with the cooperation of another admirable Cuban-American: Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Liz Balmaseda. The book is titled, "Waking Up In America", and I highly recommend it to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all my colleagues.

Dr. Greer courageously denounces how society neglects millions of Americans who lack adequate health care. Dr. Greer is the medical director and one of the founders in South Florida of the Camilus Health Concern, a free clinic for the poor, and the San Juan Bosco Clinic for the poor. He has won a MacArthur Fellowship "Genius Grant" and was recognized by Time Magazine as one of Fifty Top Young